

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
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### COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING EXTENSIONS AND OPENINGS

Inclement weather resulted in significant loss of commercial fishing opportunity this week in Norton Sound Subdistricts 4–6, the Norton Bay, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet Subdistricts. However, westerly winds and high water levels hastened the entry of Chinook salmon into the lower reaches of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet River drainages as indicated by a major decline in incidental catches of Chinook salmon. Consequently, the department will be increasing fishing time for upcoming July 12 openings, and there will be longer openings scheduled for Subdistricts 5 and 6 on Monday, July 15 to utilize chum salmon harvestable surpluses. Permit holders in all three subdistricts are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate and gillnets must have a mesh size no greater than 6 inches. Commercial fishing times are as follows:

#### **Subdistrict 4: Norton Bay Subdistrict**

The 48-hour period originally scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 14 has been increased by 24 hours for a total of 72 hours. Commercial salmon fishing is now permitted in the Norton Bay Subdistrict to occur from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 15.

#### **Subdistrict 5: Shaktoolik Subdistrict**

The 24-hour period originally scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 13 has been increased by 24 hours for a total of 48 hours. Commercial salmon fishing is now permitted to occur in the Shaktoolik Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 14. Also, there will be one 72-hour commercial salmon fishing period from 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 15 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12, subsistence salmon fishing in the Shaktoolik Subdistrict marine waters will be allowed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but fishermen are restricted to set gillnets with a mesh size no greater than 6 inches.

#### **Subdistrict 6: Unalakleet Subdistrict**

The 24-hour period originally scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 13 has been increased by 24 hours for a total of 48 hours. Commercial salmon fishing is now permitted to occur in the Unalakleet Subdistrict from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 13. Also, there will be one 72-hour commercial salmon fishing period from 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 15 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 12, subsistence salmon fishing in the Unalakleet Subdistrict marine waters will be allowed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but fishermen are restricted to set gillnets with a mesh size no greater than 6 inches.